

Finance Committee 1/28/16

Tom Busa, Richard Bowen, Karen Dunn, Steve Steele, Elizabeth McClung, David Powell, Paul Mortenson, Ben Thomas, Victor Garofalo

**SCHOOLS:**

Jon Sills

*BUDGET*

reduced FTE, trimmed technology requests, to bring budget to 3.5% guideline number, 3.53% with nurses

2002 highest increase (9.37%)

1.02% over maintenance of effort: add 3.95 FTE to Special Ed, curriculum leadership, instructional coaching

reducing 5.4 FTE; net 1.45 FTE reduction

budget increases were about 80% salaries, 6.56% instruction, 5.16% transport, 15.4% out of district.

students with disabilities : 17.3%

autism: 56 students

emotional: 68 students

looking for 1.0 behavioral counselor so one is available at each Davis and Lane adjustment counselor at Lane moved to full time.

cluster model in Davis helps share specialists

ELL needs remain static

homeless transport estimates: FY16 \$140,000, and FY17 \$75,000

students have right to the last school, not last district they were in, but not if received vouchers

from 22 children in hotel at the beginning of the year to about 11 now.

census identified 170 kindergarten eligible children versus 137 and 150 the previous two years.

estimate now is at 196. Can handle about 200 or 201. if more than that, would request another FTE for Special Ed to help in the clusters.

Registration is in April. we will have a good idea then.

Lane: will need FTE in FY18

JGMS smaller than usual 8th grade

projecting Davis at about 22 per class.

projecting Lane at 21.8, 23.3, 24.6 for grades 3, 4, 5

projecting BHS 881 FY15 to 859 FY16 to 836 FY17

BHS average	social studies 17.7	English: 18.8	language	14.6:
next year will go to	18.02	19.2		15.7

some added coordinators for curriculum  
some costs offset by eliminating some teaching assistants  
total 3.95 FTE at 242,821 and reductions 1.45 for 172,111  
net: \$79,710

next year '16-'17 is year 3 of the school contract  
savings from transportation by bringing more students in-house  
out of district tuition: min \$24K, max \$301K, lots in the \$50K, some in the \$150K-\$180K  
circuit breaker: when over about \$42K the state pays between 68% and 73% of the amount above that.  
they don't include transportation or in-house programming costs  
OOD is up about 3.1%, 2.65% after offsets  
regular transportation up 3.43%, expect fuel cost to be lower, so could be less by 11-12K, would be a credit against the bills  
transportation OOD: down about 20%  
looking at the possibility of merging the three collaboratives used

Ben: would it be good to have the town have a central rental agent to promote rentals

agreement that the presentation was well done.

note that guideline for schools was 3.5% because 2.5% wouldn't meet negotiated salary increases, but with the upcoming negotiations a reminder that the growth in the future may not be as high.  
suggestion to consider total compensation package, in particular our low class size, when comparing to other towns during negotiations

#### *SCHOOL SPACE NEEDS TASK FORCE*

consider Lane first, since Davis has modulares already.  
compared the NESDEC study with two other projections  
(see presentation slides)  
reason to think NESDEC is more accurate  
strongest contributing factor to increased population is move-ins

recommend RFQ for \$78,500. 4 bidders as of today.

Finance Committee appreciates the professional research

Ben: Is there a cost to fast construction?

Jon: Hoping to get metal in this summer. Major construction distractions after students gone. Hoping to have construction complete: August 2017. Hoping to have bidding complete by June 2016.

Ben: Would there be a chance you would need to build more than what is proposed?

Jon: Hard to determine what cushion you need. Team was thoughtful as to what to consider. This is the best we can predict.

Rich: concerns about accommodating the central services (cafeteria, heating system, etc.) if you expand too far.

Elizabeth: concern about high taxes resulting in a population where people move after accessing the schools

warrant article for this town meeting and the election in March

Victor: we've put aside 662K.

impact on town would be \$1.85 per \$100,000 if fully bonded.

Tom: realistically, cost should be rolled into all the people who will be using it (by bonding)

### **Debt Exclusion**

Victor: Jon mentioned 12K in benefits, will reduce the benefits then.

homeless should be 75K and we have over 200K there in the model.

suggestion: don't put reserve in for special educator, but can change in special town meeting. fair amount in reserve already.

selectmen's budget over 140K due to pilot program for transit \$104K, and IT consultant services \$35K

Ben: beneficial if we could have the big budgets in advance

### **UNUSED TAX LEVY (Mitre money)**

3M of funds we don't need this year. 1.6M is double taxation (Mitre money) should have an override, at least a one-time of what Mitre pays

Rich: or pay for the bonding within the budget  
no debt exclusion

new growth may be good but not excessive

we are underfunding highways

put in stabilization while we have the money

Victor: for a 20 year bond 187K for bond payment for Lane first year, then goes down

Tom: we could do a 25 year bond

how about bond rating?

what impact would an override have? not looked at favorably

our undesignated fund balance has dropped from FY14 to FY15

"undesignated" fund is our free cash and stabilization

putting money in stabilization helps our reserve and our undesignated fund balance

our state aid is going up 75K

override requires selectmen majority to put it on ballot. goes to election.

bonding the Lane project within prop 2.5 is feasible

other projects that will need debt exclusion: political risk to do too many

what would Selectmen think about an override?

### **Assessor's Budget**

asking for an increase for a consultant for 4K and a salary increase

hours they are asking for they aren't using

they need to use a cogent argument for what they want

the request was for the full year of increased hours

Victor: Police will need 35K-50K reserve fund transfer

On this year's warrant, additional 700K moved to OPEB trust fund. This will be the first year we will meet the ARC.

Victor: Should have the overlay reserve interest amount put to Finance account for paying interest.

Dave: shared Rick Reed presentation of the transport initiative. Pilot program is intended to answer demands from a survey. for employees, schools, seniors, disability. on demand, later hours, etc. no real goals, targets. What makes success? 70K for first BLT bus, and costs about \$10 per ride.

What other benefits will new service provide?

Dave: CPC talked about the First Parish windows, and 100K for B-field design. will bond.

neither of those two items got approval

B-field turning to turf? difference of opinion. potentially will keep 100K in their budget to present at fall town meeting.

some Selectmen: don't start design of B field until Liljegren field is progressing.

uncertainty of the user fees, replacement costs of rug.

reconstruction of RR Ave for bike path extension approximately 500K  
we'll have to pay for design, maybe the federal government will pay for  
construction.

Ben: Selectmen: warrant is now at 31 articles. will vote on budget on Monday.  
Budget recommendations on 2/11.

Motion to Adjourn:  
David Powell

Second:  
Paul Mortenson  
8-0  
11:25 P.M.